

INTRODUCTION

Crime, drugs, violent street crime and burgeoning prison populations continue to drain our communities, states, and national resources. It has become clear that police agencies alone, employing traditional law enforcement methods, cannot turn this tide. We need an approach that addresses the causes of crime, encourages community participation and makes better use of existing resources.

COPPS is founded on the hope for a better tomorrow - the belief that community problems can be resolved and ultimately prevented. It stands for a commitment to addressing the complex and chronic underlying issues that plague our society and our communities.



For further information, contact:

**Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Anti-Crime / Training Unit
1620 Southwest Tyler
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-8200**

COPPS



**Community Oriented
Policing and
Problem Solving**

Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) is a concept whose time has come. This movement holds tremendous promise for creating effective police-community partnerships to reclaim our communities and keep our streets safe.

The COPPS approach is a better way to create safer communities with existing resources. It mobilizes and empowers people to work with the police to effectively address crime and other social problems confronting our communities.

It is important to stress that community policing still involves straightforward law enforcement. It is not “soft” on crime - in fact, it is tougher on crime because it is smarter and more creative. Community input focuses police activities; and, with better information, officers are able to respond more effectively with arrests and other appropriate actions.

The COPPS approach can instill us with hope for our future, unite our communities and promote pride in our police forces.



Ultimately, it is up to police and local governmental officials, educators, community organizers and residents, to take up this challenge. Working together we can make a genuine difference in our communities... now and in the future.

Is COPPS a new approach? Some community oriented policing strategies, such as foot patrol, resemble policing of years past. But COPPS is not just a “tack on” program that requires new resources. It is a philosophy, a management style and an organizational design that promotes police/community partnerships and problem solving strategies. It is a different way of looking at policing.

COPPS redefines the roles and relationships between the community and the police by recognizing that the community at-large shares

responsibility with the police for social order. Both must work cooperatively to identify problems and develop proactive community-wide solutions. COPPS requires a shared ownership by the police and the community in decision making by inviting public input and providing feedback regarding community problems and policing policies.

Shared ownership does not mean that the community takes the law into their own hands; but rather, that the community works with the police to identify and prioritize problems; develop and implement creative and effective responses; determine resource allocations; and evaluate and modify approaches as necessary. COPPS serves to increase understanding and trust between police and community members, thus developing a sense of equality, mutual respect and trust.

Prevention and intervention alternatives available to police need to be greatly expanded. Experience has demonstrated that, without intervention some situations often escalate into incidents that eventually do require a law enforcement response.

COPPS
*Working Together
for the Future*